

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 20-51, 74, and 75 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the following claims:

52. (Amended) A recombinant virus vector comprising a virus vector[,] and a nucleic acid construct comprising at least one regulatory nucleic acid sequence of the 5' end of a myosin light chain 2 gene that is operatively linked to a nucleic acid sequence to be expressed,

wherein the regulatory nucleic acid sequence is effective for cardiac tissue specific expression of the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed under conditions of somatic gene transfer,

wherein said recombinant virus vector is optionally complexed with liposomes.

53. (Amended) The recombinant virus vector of claim 52, wherein said at least one regulatory nucleic acid sequence comprises regulatory elements:

HF 1a and 1b consisting of nucleotides 2340 to 2361 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

MLE1 consisting of nucleotides 2229 to 2241 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
and

C1
HF 3 consisting of nucleotides 2207 to 2219 of SEQ ID NO: 1[;
or a functional homolog of said regulatory elements].

C2
58. (Amended) The recombinant virus vector according to claim 52, wherein said regulatory nucleic acid sequence also comprises an E box element consisting of nucleotides 2328 to 2333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or an HF 2 element consisting of nucleotides 2271 to 2289 of SEQ ID NO: 1[; or a functional homolog of said E box or HF 1 elements].

59. (Amended) The recombinant virus vector according to claim 52, wherein said regulatory nucleic acid sequence also comprises a CSS sequence element consisting of nucleotides 682 to 724 of SEQ ID NO: 1[; or a functional homolog of said CSS element].

SUB E3
C3
~~69. (Amended) A method for delivery of a desired gene to cardiac muscle cells, which method comprises administering intravenously or by injection into the cardiac cavity or the pericardial space a recombinant virus vector according to claim 52, optionally complexed with liposomes, to cardiac tissue of a subject.~~
